

The Evening World.

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THEY CAN HARDLY WAIT.

NOTE the energy and zeal with which Speaker Sweet and other Republican leaders at Albany are preparing for the creation of a special legislative committee to come down and hunt for the "overshadowing crime" in the County of New York.

It is different when the question is milk legislation or similar constructive benefit for this city. Then a Republican Legislature has no time or attention to waste on this insignificant down-State community of five and a half millions.

When money is wanted to spend on up-State improvements, up-State legislators are by no means indifferent to New York City as a source of tax revenue. But the real zest comes when Republican Senators and Assemblymen see a chance to journey down and probe a Democratic municipal administration for what the process may yield in party capital.

POOR OLD FELLOW!

PRESSED for an epitaph for tottering Old Man 1919, the average reader would be apt to suggest something like, "Here Lies a Grouch."

To begin with, it must be admitted that 1919 had a rather unfortunate ancestry. Both 1917 and 1918 were abnormal. Each was afflicted with a bad case of nerves. Neither had learned to think for itself. Opinions were thrown at 1919 and 1918 in predigested form and both suffered from mental indigestion. Young 1919 had a hereditary tendency to do as he was told without asking questions, and that is what he seems to have done.

Every one expected great things of 1919, but few gave wholehearted effort in bringing them about. With only two exceptions, there was scarcely any general agreement as to what were the most immediate tasks, and the result was a conflict of "go ahead" here and "back up" there orders that was enough to confuse, confound and paralyze any year, particularly one of a nervous disposition like 1919.

Every one, even profiteers, wanted the High knocked out of the Cost of Living, but in every case the actual assistance was passed on to some one else. So 1919 failed here. Every one, with few exceptions, wanted the soldiers returned to civil life and installed in good jobs. There was a unanimous demand. 1919 heard and did the job in creditable style. It is the biggest credit mark on the ledger.

Year 1919 did some other things not so creditable. He flirited shamelessly with several objectionable minorities, the Anti-Saloon League, the Reds, the Republican treaty obstructors, for example. Before casting reproach on 1919 it is well to recall that these objectionable minorities were well organized and trained to yell in unison, in the general style of the college rooting section. So 1919 heard the voice above the confused babble of tongues and obeyed orders. In other matters the babble merely confused him and developed the grouch.

If there is any moral to this explanation of the deeds of 1919 it lies in the need for less yelling and more thinking. Young 1920 has a better start than Old 1919. His nerves are not quite so awry. But he too will need help and unified direction. Sober judgment, industry and definite ideas for procedure will make the record of 1920 better, and nothing else will. If 1919 was a grouch, so were most of the rest of us.

Eighteen billion kronen (\$3,600,000,000) is what Communism is estimated to have cost Hungary. Worth the money if the lesson was learned.

TWO TAX RETURNS.

COMPUTATION of income taxes is in order any time after the close of to-day's business, the sooner the better. Reduction in the Federal tax rate will be a relief all over the Nation. New York's pleasure in the reduction is somewhat dampened by the imposition of a new State tax on incomes which on the smaller income groups will call for about half the saving from the decrease allowed by the Federal Government.

Moreover, the calculation of a new income tax return for the State further reduces this satisfaction. The married man with an income of only a little more than \$2,000, whose two payments will be insignificant, will be inclined to believe that the Governments, State and National, actually owe him for his pains. It does seem rather a pity that the State and the Nation cannot go into partnership in the tax collection, take both taxes from the same return, and divide the proceeds and the expense of collection.

POWER FROM THE AIR.

IT IS STRANGE indeed that Philadelphia is the home of H. H. Platt, who advocates extraction of heat energy from the atmosphere as a source of power. If he were a Federal scientist, with headquarters at Washington, the diagnosis would appear simple, "Crazy with the heat," with Jim Reed, Borah, La Follette and H. Johnson as accessories before the fact.

But coming from Philadelphia we reserve judgment. There may be something in the scheme.

ANOTHER TRANSIT PROBE.

AS was expected, the Board of Estimate declares for an independent investigation of the transit situation. This investigation is, of course, ordered in the name of the citizens of New York. The assumption is that it is to be conducted in their interest.

The average New Yorker does not pretend to understand traction finance. He does not even expect any one to make it clear to him. What he does think is that there ought to be obtainable a sufficient agreement between competent authorities and experts whom he can trust, to give him an adequate general notion of what is the matter with the city's transit systems and what must be done to keep them running.

So far he has seen nothing remotely approaching such agreement. And as for trustworthy authority, he has found it difficult to accept as such either traction officials bent on proving that the choice is between higher fares or ruin, or a Mayor for whom the five-cent fare is primarily a buttonhole emblem worn to court popularity.

The few who profess to understand the transit situation have bitterly accused one another of special pleading. And to make the darkness thicker for the average citizen, the Grand Jury has moved up an "overshadowing crime" mysteriously related, it is whispered, to the traction cloud.

Meanwhile, the citizen of New York sees in Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit a state of things the very opposite of that which oppresses him at home. In these cities transit companies are reducing fares, withdrawing requests for permission to charge for transfers and promising millions of dollars' worth of improvements without changing present rates. In Philadelphia, the incorrigible Mr. Mitten still insists on making the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company prosper on a five-cent fare.

What is wrong in New York? Is it some innate, incurable difference in transit conditions? Is it bad management? Or is it the heritage of overcapitalization and exorbitant rentals and fixed charges handed down from an earlier period of reckless manipulation?

It ought not to be beyond the power of disinterested and thorough inquiry to determine how far any or all of these things are responsible for the present plight in which New York transit lines are floundering.

The people of this city cannot afford to have their street railways go to pieces and the cars stop.

On the other hand, neither can they afford to be the victims of a palliative scheme by which higher fares are made to cover the continuing consequences of past extravagance and mismanagement.

The City of New York ought to be able to secure an investigation of the present situation that shall bring out the facts and carry conviction.

Anything else will be a futile waste which the public will rightfully resent.

A TONIC FOR BUSINESS.

DIAGNOSTICIAN Frank A. Vanderlip believes that "enlightenment in economics" is the crying need of American business. Unfortunately enlightenment acts slowly, like a tonic. It cannot be purchased wholesale. Nor is it possible to get the effect of continued doses by taking a bottle at a time. A tonic acts slowly. The time to have started taking the tonic was years ago.

Such observations would be bootless were it not for the fact that even now occasional objections to the remedy are voiced by the patient.

Economics has not been popular with American business. Economics was something to sneer at. It was taught in colleges, and not every college graduate was a business genius. Worse yet, economics was frequently "radical." It examined radical theories even when it did not endorse them. Economics considered business not only for itself, but in its relation to society as a whole. Sometimes the economist advised a limitation of diet and refused to permit the sly gratification of the business appetite for the delectable but dangerous pastry and desserts of special privilege.

In recent years business has taken a more sensible view of the matter. It realizes that the hearty diet which was digestible in youth is apt to cause indigestion in middle age. It realizes that good business means more than mere profits, that business must stand the test of publicity, must court public knowledge in order to prevent public suspicion.

Schools of business have sprung up and are gaining support. But even so, the business world is apt to frown upon and withdraw financial support from institutions where "radical heresies" are taught under the name of economics. The business world is not yet fully awake to the fact that the best and only safe way to meet and beat these heresies, if they really are false, is by sound economics. It is in this way that Mr. Vanderlip's advice is most valuable. The tonic is all the more necessary for having been delayed.

HUNGER AND COLD.

What will be the close of our perfect day—

Our pleasant whiles and plentiful pay—

Why, Hunger and Cold!

'Twas ever so since the world went round,

The end of joy has always been found—

With Hunger and Cold!

'Tis only a pang and a wintry chill

That wrings Time's needs from the human will—

In Hunger and Cold!

A dreary refrain in an hour of cheer,

Yet the wisest and best know it is near—

'Mid Hunger and Cold!

Take heed, you who dwell in the hours' delight,

The sunshine will soon make way in its flight—

For Hunger and Cold!

DON C. SEITZ.

Some Job Ahead!



By J. H. Cassel

FROM EVENING WORLD READERS

"How to Find Your Vocation."

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I am sure that I am speaking for thousands of your readers, especially boys between the ages of fourteen and nineteen, in highly commending the series of articles in vocational guidance conducted by Mr. Max Watson in The Evening World.

To appreciate the usefulness of the information given in these articles one must realize how little the public or high school graduate knows not alone what vocation to enter, but how many vocations there are that he might consider and what exactly the nature of the work in each is. It is the lack of this knowledge that leads the average boy to accept the first position that presents itself, so that his life work is determined by chance rather than by forethought and choice.

I know personally of any number of boys who study these articles with a good deal more interest than any of their school subjects, and there is no doubt that if they were made part of the regular school curriculum, and not given only as a special treat, they would be of great value to many of our nation's youth.

A. L. BURR.

No. 3231 Decatur Avenue, New York City, Dec. 27, 1919.

Calks Do Help.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Having read a good deal about horsehoes lately in your paper, I should like to say a few words that I think would help. I drove horses for the city for twenty years and naturally was confronted with the same difficulty. Sharpening of heels and toes helped, but would only last about four or five days. Rubber pads proved ineffective. Chains were good going up grades, but came off easily and were lost. It remained for the country, it seems, to solve the problem. Out here we are all using what is called the "Never Slip." It is a flat shoe with two threaded holes in front and one in each heel. Into these holes are fitted sharp-pointed alks, also threaded, and anybody can remove and replace these alks with a small alligator wrench in about fifteen minutes.

The city horsehoes, I am afraid, would never carry these shoes, though I never saw one. It would cut their business. But they are THE thing. I ploughed ice with horses shod with that kind and the horses walk on the ice as surely as if they were on bare ground, and on the hard asphalt high-ways it is my fault if the horse slips. I have neglected to watch my alks. The price of the shoes in the same as ordinary shoes and the alks cost about \$5 per 100 and last a whole winter. Once in a while shoes should be taken off and fitted on again.

O. A. KRYSEK.

Nanuet, N. Y., Dec. 27, 1919.

Visit in Queens.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Jas. R. Manning is entirely wrong. I have met those English and French girls he speaks of and found them to lack the ladylike ways and good moral standards of our girls in the United States.

It is true the French girls are

healthy and show it, but the English girls are far from it, and also show it.

In a letter of the 27th, signed M. L. she expresses herself as the true American girl of to-day.

I am under the impression that the articles were not written by American boys. Certainly no American should be so ignorant in regard to our American girls. If these writers are acquainted with our American girls I would be glad to know whether or not they belong to the Ananias Club.

I see no reason why every American girl should be downed on account of a fondness for cabarets, etc., which exists among some girls of all nationalities. The few American girls who frequent these places do so by the influence brought upon them by the following reasons:

I think if some of our American boys would settle down a bit they will find plenty of American girls who will make good chums, pals and housewives.

Who attack to the American boys when they were across but the American girls? They told in the American boys' places and waited for their return. Some (the Ananias Club) were being entertained by the girls on the other side. What thanks did the American girls get? None—from this class.

American girls merit and receive the highest respect and appreciation of all good Americans.

BROOKLYN, DEC. 27.

Where He Fell.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I have read with more than ordinary interest the various letters in this paper as to why, and why not, the bodies of our fallen soldiers should be taken from their resting places and brought back to this country. Some one suggests there may be a political motive. Be that as it may, I know of some undertakers who are said to have made a lot of money from this source of business. I can not help thinking of an old poem that was in our school books fifty years ago. As I recall, it was called "The Widow of Glenoe," and ran something like this:

Do not lift him from the heathen,

Leave him lying where he fell;

Better lies he cannot find,

None beneath him half so well.

As the bar and broken weather

And the hard and trampled sod

Will be his bed and his shroud

To the judgment seat of God.

University Ave., Dec. 28, 1919.

Satisfied With a U. S. Girl.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

In reference to Joseph Manning's letter to The Evening World, would like to say that while I was fighting "over there" my wife, a New York City girl, kept our home by going out to work, bought Liberty bonds and War Savings Stamps with any little

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake.

(Copyright, 1919.)

SAVE YOUR REMINISCENCES FOR YOUR OLD AGE.

The man who tells you what he used to do is "through." Reminiscences are written by the old. They are told by the "has been."

Clemenceau, Premier of France, the man who saved his country from the Kaiser is, at seventy-eight, a candidate for the Presidency.

He is thinking to-day, not of what he has done but of what he means to do. And if his body can keep up with his mentality he will yet do great things for France and for the world.

The chap who sits with his feet on your desk and talks of the great things he did ten years ago will never be able to talk of the great things he is doing ten years hence.

Just as sure as a man's mind begins to dwell on his past his future usefulness to the world and to himself is at an end.

Clemenceau at sixty-five could easily have boasted of past accomplishment. He had had a notable career. His reminiscences would have been highly interesting.

But his mind was not on the past but on the future. He foresaw dire trouble for his country. When his contemporaries were boasting of what they had done, he was thinking of what he could do. And when the hour came he was ready to do it.

Beware of pluming yourself on a past performance. However difficult was the task you accomplished, however brilliantly you accomplished it, there is still much to be done, unless you are content to settle down in a chimney corner and become a garrulous old braggart.

There is something in looking backward that slows up the energies and puts a brake on accomplishment. We usually travel in the direction in which we are looking. If we keep looking back, for any purpose except to get our bearings and note our progress, we will begin to travel backward.

True physical effort cannot be as well sustained at sixty as at twenty-five, but physical effort alone will not get you very far. If you are normally constructed your mind should be far able at sixty than at twenty-five, or even at fifty.

If you have had an interesting life postpone relating its incidents till you are willing to admit that you have gone as far on the road as you are going.

Reminiscences well written are interesting and educating. But the man who is still making his history has no time to write them. And the man who is constantly talking of what he has done keeps so busy at that that he has no time to do anything more.

Keep your eyes ahead if you are going ahead. And let your thoughts follow your eyes.

extra money she had, and when I came back wounded was right there to help me.

She is only one of thousands of American women that have done the same.

The American girl is as good a pal and comrade as can be had and when it comes to making and keeping a home her European sister cannot beat her.

Any of the A. E. F. men who prefer English or French girls are welcome to them. There are boats sailing every day and I don't think any American girl will be very sorry.

T. O. M.
An A. E. F. Veteran.
New York, Dec. 27, 1919.

DANGER IN EYESTRAIN.

CONTINUED use of the eyes for a long time at close work is harmful to a child, even with perfect eyes, says W. M. Carhart in Public Health (Michigan), as quoted in the Journal of the American Medical Association. "Therefore," he adds, "it is very important to rest the eyes every few minutes whenever using them for close work, such as studying and writing. No work or study is important enough to be persisted in at the expense of injury to the eyes."

The Love Stories of Great Novels

By Albert Payson Terhune
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(The New York Evening World.)

No. 31: THE NAULAHKA.

By Rudyard Kipling.

NICK TARVIN, shrewd young civil engineer, was blindly in love with his neighbor, Kate Sheriff, a grave-eyed girl who lived in the same little Middle West town as himself.

Kate explained to him, over and over, that she had no right to stay at home and become his wife. She said she had dedicated her life to missionary work, and that she was about to set out for India, as a mission nurse. Nor could all Nick's pleas change her intent.

To influence another woman who could swing a business deal in his favor, he promised to get for her a Hindu necklace of which he had heard—the necklace known as the Naulahka, which was then hanging around the throat of an idol in a temple of the Rajputana province.

Kate would not give up her mission to India. Tarvin set forth for Rajputana on his quest of the necklace. He had vast faith in his power to win fortune for him. He went to the province where the Naulahka was supposed to be. There, by his shrewd American wit, he won the favor of the local Maharajah. There, too, he won the hatred of the Queen, Sitabhai, who tried every art at her command, to get him killed.

To the same city, to the mission house, Kate Sheriff found her way. It was here that she was quartered as mission nurse. She and Nick Tarvin now had a new bond of interest in each other, as the only Americans in this out-of-the-way region of India.

Not for many weeks after his arrival did Tarvin get a glimpse of the Naulahka. And then he saw it at the betrothal feast of the Maharajah's epileptic little son—a child whom Kate was trying to nurse back to health. The necklace was hanging about the youngster's shoulders, when Nick got his first look at it. Says the author:

"It blazed with the dull red of the ruby, the angry green of the emerald, the cold blue of the sapphire and the white hot glory of the diamond. But, during all those glories was the superb radiance of one gem that lay above the great carved emerald on the central clasp. It was a black diamond; black as the pitch of the infernal lake, and lighted from below by the fires of hell."

And this was the all-precious treasure that Nick Tarvin had so boastfully promised to win. There seemed no shadow of a chance to acquire it.

At last, by a clever stroke, he actually gained possession, for a while, of the necklace. But by that time he had learned that there were other things far better worth having; and that Kate did not approve of his juggling with crowns and crown jewels.

Also a political and financial career was calling him back to America. And that career meant nothing to Nick, unless he could make Kate Sheriff share his success with him.

But the girl, too, was learning a lesson. She was learning the seamy side of the Orient and that its life of peril and intrigue is not for a gently reared American girl.

Nick's devotion, too, and his constant presence in every crisis of her existence, were having their effect. Under the combined influence her missionary resolutions at length broke down. And she surrendered, waiting pitiously to Tarvin:

"It's not a girl's work! It's not for me! I have given it up, Nick. Take me home!"

News Flashes From Around The World

Los Angeles Has Our Problems.

Winter tourists seeking homes in Los Angeles have boosted rents until apartments are renting from \$60 to \$800 a month, according to the Los Angeles Times. A housing department of the Municipal Government has been created to cope with the situation, and more than 4,200 persons availed themselves of this service in the past month. These were disposed of approximately as follows: Thirty-three per cent. to flats and apartments, 20 per cent. to bungalows and houses, 20 per cent. to sleeping rooms, 25 per cent. to rooms with housekeeping privileges and 2 per cent. to rooms with board.

Trade With Germany.

The Christiania Street Car System has purchased fifty-one new street cars in Hanover, Germany, to be delivered next fall and winter. The director of the street car company has recently returned from a trip to Germany and reports that very few improvements in street car construction have taken place during the war.

London's Motor Car Show.

The motor exhibition now in progress at Olympia, London, because of its completeness justifies the great crowds that it is drawing. A total of 35,000 persons passed the turnstiles the first day, and the enthusiasm continues. With the exception of the Enfield Alday, which has a radio five-cylinder air-cooled engine along airplane lines, there is nothing strikingly original, and the chassis and bodies follow the conventional British plan of sturdy durability.